

Message Text

PAGE 01 TOKYO 11489 070420Z

15
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TAGS: PFOR JA KS
SUBJECT: JAPANESE PRESS HIGHLIGHTS - SEPTEMBER 7

1. FOLLOWING ARE JAPANESE PRESS HIGHLIGHTS OF SEPTEMBER 7
TRANSLATED BY EMBASSY TOKYO AND TRANSMITTED AT REQUEST OF EMBASSY
SEOUL.

2. ASAHI, MAINICHI, YOMIURI AND SANKEI HIGHLIGHTED
KIM TAE-CHUNG ABDUCTION CASE, AS THEIR FRONTPAGE TOP STORIES,
CARRYING THE HEADLINES QTE REQUEST FOR SECRETARY KIM'S
APPEARANCE REJECTED AGAIN -- KIM DAE JUNG CASE; ROK FOREIGN
MINISTER REPLIES TO AMBASSADOR USHIROKU; DIPLOMATIC NEGOTIA-
TIONS BECOME TENSER; NO CONNECTION WITH INCIDENT; BECOMES
CLEAR AS RESULT OF QUESTIONING OF THE PERSON HIMSELF UNQTE
(ASAHI); QTE ROK NOT CHANGING STRONG ATTITUDE -- KIM DAE JUNG
CASE; WILL NOT HASTEN TO BREAK DEADLOCK: JAPANESE GOVERNMENT;
TO AVOID TAKING PUNITIVE MEASURES UNQTE (MAINICHI);
QTE HIGH-HANDED REPLY RECEIVED FROM ROK; GOVERNMENT BEING
FORCED TO TAKE COUNTERMEASURES; PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT BY JAPAN
QTE RECRETTABLE UNQTE: FOREIGN MINISTER KIM YONG SHIK;
SECRETARY KIM NOT INVOLVED UNQUOTE (YOMIURI); AND QTE ROK
CATEGORICALLY DENIES SECRETARY KIM'S INVOLVEMENT IN KIM DAE
JUNG CASE; JAPAN DECIDES ON DEPORTATION FROM THE COUNTRY;
NOT RECOGNIZED AS DIPLOMAT; FIRST ACTION OF PROTEST UNQTE
UNCLASSIFIED
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PAGE 02 TOKYO 11489 070420Z

(SANKEI).

3. LEAD PARAGRAPH OF ASAHI'S TOP STORY SAID: KIM DAE CHUNG

CASE HAS DEVELOPED INTO SERIOUS DIPLOMATIC QUESTION, BECAUSE IT HAS BECOME CLEAR AS RESULT OF JAPANESE SIDE'S INVESTIGATIONS THAT ROK EMBASSY IN JAPAN STAFF MEMBER INVOLVED IN CASE. ROKG OFFICIAL YESTERDAY ADMITTED THAT FIRST SECRETARY KIM DONG WOON UNDER SUSPICION IS NOW IN ROK, AND THIS OFFICIAL ALSO CLARIFIED STAND THAT IT IMPOSSIBLE TO ACCEPT GOJ REQUEST FOR KIM'S APPEARANCE FOR QUESTIONING, BECAUSE HE IS NOT INVOLVED IN CASE AT ALL. THIS REJECTION WAS GIVEN TO JAPANESE SIDE DURING AMBASSADOR USHIROKU TALK WITH FONMIN KIM YONG SHIK THAT AFTERNOON. IT SEEMS THAT ROK HAS THUS COME INTO DIRECT CONFRONTATION WITH INVESTIGATIONS BY JAPAN AND THAT CHANGE FOR SECURING SETTLEMENT THROUGH DIPLOMATIC NEGOTIATIONS HAS BEEN CUT BY ROK SIDE.

4. LEAD PARAGRAPH OF THE MAINICHI'S TOP STORY SAID:
DIPLOMATIC NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN JAPANESE AND ROK GOVERNMENTS ON KIM DAE JUNG CASE HAVE COME TO DEADLOCK, BECAUSE ROK FOREIGN MINISTER KIM YONG SHIK YESTERDAY REPLIED TO AMBASSADOR USHIROKU THAT QTE FIRST SECRETARY KIM DONG WOON HAS NO CONNECTION WITH CASE UNQTE, AND ALSO BECAUSE HE REJECTED OUR COUNTRY'S REQUEST FOR FIRST SECRETARY KIM'S QTE VOLUNTARY APPEARANCE UNQTE. THIS HAS CAUSED DIRECT CONFRONTATION BETWEEN GOJ, POLICY OF WHICH CALLS FOR QTE REASONABLE SETTLEMENT ACCEPTABLE BOTH AT HOME AND ABROAD UNQTE, AND ROKG WHICH REPEATEDLY EMPHASIZES THAT QTE GOVERNMENT ORGANS ARE NOT INVOLVED IN CASE UNQTE. FOR PRESENT, HOWEVER, GOJ LEADERS HAVE DECIDED TO WATCH ATTITUDE TO BE ASSUMED BY ROKG. GOJ LEADERS HAVE ALSO FIRMED UP THEIR POLICY OF CONTINUING PERSISTENT NEGOTIATIONS WITH ROKG OVER LONG PERIOD OF TIME, IN ORDER NOT TO IMPAIR JAPAN-ROK RELATIONS. ACTUAL SITUATION IS SUCH THAT OUR COUNTRY'S CURRENT POLICY TOWARD ROK, INCLUDING UN DEBATES ON KOREAN PROBLEM MAY BE AFFECTED, IF SETTLEMENT OF CASE IS PROTRACTED. HOWEVER, THE GOJ SEEMS TO HAVE COME TO ESTIMATE THAT SECURING OF HASTY SETTLEMENT WILL RESULT IN WORSENING THE SITUATION FURTHER, AND THAT THIS UNDESIRABLE FOR FUTURE OF JAPAN-ROK RELATIONS.

5. LEAD PARAGRAPH OF YOMIURI'S TOP STORY NOTED:
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PAGE 03 TOKYO 11489 070420Z

ACCORDING TO REPORT RECEIVED BY MOFA FROM AMBASSADOR USHIROKU LAST NIGHT, AMBASSADOR HELD TALKS WITH ROK FOREIGN MINISTER KIM YONG SHIK IN SEOUL FOR ABOUT 40 MINUTES FROM 1600 THAT DAY. USHIROKU STRONGLY URGED FONMIN KIM TO RECONSIDER PROBLEM OF ROK EMBASSY FIRST SECRETARY KIM DONG WOON'S VOLUNTARY APPEARANCE. IN THIS CONNECTION, FONMIN KIM AGAIN REJECTED REQUEST FOR FIRST SECRETARY'S VOLUNTARY APPEARANCE, AND SAID QTE FIRST SECRETARY KIM SAYS THAT HE HAS NO CONNECTION WITH KIM DAE JUNG CASE. IT REGRETTABLE THAT GOJ HAS MADE PUBLIC HIS NAME UNILATERALLY UNQTE. SO SAYING, FONMIN KIM EXPRESSED STRONG

DISSATISFACTION WITH QTE PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF FACTS UNQTE BY GOJ. IN CONNECTION WITH VOLUNTARY APPEARANCE QUESTION, MOREOVER, FONMIN KIM SAID QTE I WILL CONDUCT FURTHER CONSULTATIONS WITH HIS SUPERIORS UNQTE. THEREFORE, GOJ VIEW IS THAT FONMIN KIM WILL RENDER FINAL REPLY WITHIN NEXT ONE OR TWO DAYS, AFTER CONDUCTING DISCUSSIONS WITH PRESIDENT PARK, PRIME MINISTER KIM CHONG PIL, AND OTHERS. HOWEVER, GOJ IS SUFFERING STRONG SHOCK, DUE TO STRONG ATTITUDE ASSUMED BY ROKG. JAPANESE SIDE'S INVESTIGATIONS AND ROK SIDE'S VIEWS HAVE COME INTO FRONTAL CONFRONTATION, DUE TO STATEMENT MADE BY FONMIN KIM SEPTEMBER 6. THUS, GOJ IS BEING FORCED TO REACH DEFINITE DECISION ON SEVERE DIPLOMATIC COUNTERMEASURES, IN ADDITION TO SUCH MEASURES AS PNG-ING FIRST SECRETARY KIM FROM OUR COUNTRY, LODGING PROTEST, AND SEEKING HIS APOLOGY.

6. SANKEI PRESENTED SIMILAR REPORTS AND COMMENTARY.

7. ASAHI ALSO FRONTPAGED REPORT UNDER CAPTION QTE CANNOT WAIT FOR INDEFINITE PERIOD; CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY UNQTE. IN CONNECTION WITH FACT THAT ROK FOREIGN MINISTER KIM YONG SHINK, IN TALKS WITH AMBASSADOR USHIROKU YESTERDAY AFTERNOON AGAIN REJECTED JAPANESE REQUEST FOR FIRST SECRETARY KIM DONG WOON'S VOLUNTARY APPEARANCE, CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY NIKAIDO HELD PRESS CONFERENCE THAT EVENING AND STATED QTE REJECTION EXTREMELY REGRETTABLE UNQTE. NIKAIDO ALSO SAID QTE WE WILL CONTINUE EFFORTS TO HAVE AMBASSADOR USHIROKU MEET DIRECTLY WITH PRIMIN KIM CHONG PIL TO URGE ROK SIDE TO RECONSIDER PROBLEM. HOWEVER, WE CANNOT WAIT FOR INDEFINITE PERIOD UNQTE.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 TOKYO 11489 070420Z

8. MAIN POINTS OF REMARKS BY NIKAIDO FOLLOW:

(A) IT EXTREMELY REGRETTABLE THAT OUR REQUEST FOR FIRST SECRETARY KIM DONG WOON'S VOLUNTARY APPEARANCE HAS BEEN TURNED DOWN AGAIN. FROM STANDPOINT OF CLARIFYING ACTUAL FACTS OF CASE REASONABLY, JAPANESE SIDE HAS REQUESTED HIS APPEARANCE FOR QUESTIONING, PRODUCING MATERIAL EVIDENCE INCLUDING HIS FINGERPRINTS AND EYEWITNESSES. I HOPE THAT ROKG WILL UNDERSTAND GOJ POSITION.

(B) IT IS NECESSARY FOR GOJ TO MAKE FURTHER EFFORTS TO HAVE USHIROKU MEET DIRECTLY WITH PRIMIN KIM CHONG PIL TO URGE ROK SIDE TO RECONSIDER PROBLEM. THEREFORE, WE ARE CARRYING OUT STRONG ACTIVITIES FOR PURPOSE OF REALIZING PROPOSED TALKS BETWEEN THEM.

(C) I DO NOT THINK THAT ROK SIDE IS TAKING ATTITUDE OF DISREGARDING GOJ POSITION. I CAN ALSO UNDERSTAND CIRCUMSTANCES OF OTHER PARTY, WHERE REPEATED CONSULTATIONS MUST BE

CONDUCTED. BUT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO LEAVE SITUATION UNTOUCHED
FOR AN INDEFINITE PERIOD, AND THERE ARE LIMITS TO OUR
ATTITUDE. ACCORDING TO ESTABLISHED DIPLOMATIC PRACTICE,
I THINK OFFICIALS IN CHARGE OF DIPLOMATIC AFFAIRS ARE STUDYING
PROBLEM OF WHAT COUNTERMEASURES CAN BE TAKEN, DEPENDING ON
ATTITUDE TO BE ASSUMED BY ROK SIDE. (FULL TRANSLATION)
SHOESMITH

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